

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: GOI PREVENTS ESTABLISHMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED
NEW SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK

REF: FBIS KYRENIA 05 1547Z JUN 74

SUMMARY. EJECTION OF ABOUT 100 RELIGIOUS SETTLERS FROM
UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT NEAR NABLUS JUNE 5 HAS SPARKED
FIRST CONTROVERSY FOR NEW RABIN GOVERNMENT. PARTICIPATION
OF FOUR KNESSET MEMBERS, TWO FROM LIKUD AND TWO FROM
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, SUGGESTS THAT INITIATIVE WAS
INTENTIONAL AND PLANNED PROVOCATION TO TEST FIRMNESS OF NEW
GOVERNMENT AND FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD
JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. GOI HAS EXPLAINED
DECISION ON FORCIBLE EJECTION WAS RESPONSE TO CLEAR-CUT VIOLATION
OF LAW. THERE MAY BE KNESSET DEBATE ON INCIDENT IN NEXT
FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. ATTEMPT BY SMALL GROUP TO ESTABLISH JEWISH SETTLEMENT

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WITHOUT GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION JUNE 5 NEAR NABLUS ON WEST

BANK WAS FORCIBLY TERMINATED ON THE SAME DAY UPON ORDERS OF PRIME MINISTER. INCLUDED IN GROUP ON HAND TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT WERE KNESSET MEMBERS ARIEL SHARON AND GEULA COHEN OF LIKUD AND YEHUDA BEN-MEIR AND ZVULUM HAMMER OF NRP, PLUS 83-YEAR-OLD RABBI ZVI KOOK, SON OF ISRAEL'S FIRST CHIEF RABBI.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IDF UNIT EJECTED GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 100 RELIGIOUS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFTER ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE IT TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY FAILED. RABIN AND PERES REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH LIKUD LEADERS BEGIN AND SHARON IF SETTLERS VOLUNTARILY LEFT SITE. AFTER CONCILIATORY EFFORTS FAILED, ARMY MOVED IN. SHARON HAS CHARGED THAT ARMY USED BRUTALITY IN REMOVAL, INCLUDING DRAGGING WOMEN ON ROAD AND PULLING MEN AWAY BY THEIR BEARDS.

3. OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT EXPLAINING FORCIBLE REMOVEAL SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONFRONTED BY PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENT POLICY BUT BY VIOLATION OF LAW WITH WHICH THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE. EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION.

4. LABOR PARTY MK YOSI SARID HAS ASKED FOR KNESSET URGENTLY TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATION OF KNESSET MEMBERS IN INCIDENT " AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER." LIKUD KNESSET FACTION AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS ITS POSITION.

5. EDITORIALS JUNE 6 SEVERELY CRITICIZE LIKUD AND NRP KNESSET MEMBERS FOR ENCOURAGING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT. USUALLY HARDLINING PAPER MAARIV WRITES THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL KNESSET MEMBERS TRYING TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI. ISSUED IS NOT WHETHER ONE REGARDS SETTLEMENT INITIATIVE AS OBSTACLE TO PEACE EFFORTS OR A "ZIONIST ACT," BUT RATHER INTRINSIC CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITON AND AN EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY ONE. "YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE WORK AND ALSO DEMONSTRATE YOUR CONTEMPT FOR THE LAW." LEFTWING PAPER AL HAMISHMAR WRITES THAT THESE LIKUD LEADERS HAVE SHOWN " THEIR DEMAGOGIC ATTITUDE, THEIR HOLLOW NOISE-MAKING, WHICH SERVES NO USEFUL

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PURPOSE AND IS ONLY BOUND TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS. THE GOVERNMENT ACTED AUIITE RIGHTLY IN RESPONDING TO THIS PROVOCATION." GOVERNMENT'S LENIENT ATTITUDE TOWARD GROUP, WHICH SINCE LATE MAY HAS BEEN TRYING TO FORM NEW SETTLEMENT NEAR KUNEITRA, "PRIME PIONEERS OF SELF-AUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT," DOUBTLESS ENCOURAGE NABLUS AREA EFFORT. EDITORIAL QSO ASKS HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE IN PERIOD OF SECURITY ALERT FOR GROUP TO HAVE SET UP COMP AND EQUIPMENT ON WEST BANK IN FIRST

PLACE WITHOUT AUTHORITIES NIPPING THE INITIATIVE IN THE BUD.

6. COMMENT. IF PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE THAT SETTLEMENT EFFORT WAS PLANNED WEEKS AGO WITH COLLABORATION OF KNESSET MEMBERS, IT IS CLEAR THAT PARTICIPANTS WERE PLOTTING TO TEST RESOLVE OF NEW RABIN GOVERNMENT AND TO PROVOKE IT ON VOLATILE ISSUE OF JEWISH PRESENCE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY. TIMING OF EVENT APPARENTLY WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED, FALLING ON ANNIVERSARY OF SIX DAY WAR WHICH ALSO TURNED OUT TO BE FIRST DAY OF NEW RABIN GOVERNMENT. POPULAR ATTITUDE TOWARD INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY DIVIDE ALONG PARTISAN LINES, WITH RABIN'S FIRM RESPONSE UNDOUBTEDLY ALONG PARTISAN LINES, WITH RABIN'S FIRM RESPONSE UNDOUBTEDLY STRENGTHENING HIS STATURE AMONG MODERATES, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOI EXPLAINED ISSUED AS ONE OF RESPECT FOR LAW.
VELIOTES

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